Accommodation and personal staff to ex-Preident of India

776. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government accommodation is provided to the Ex-Presidents of India after their demitting office;

(b) if so, whether there is also a proposal to provide them Secretarial and personal staff; and

(c) by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (c) The matter is under consideration of Government.

(b) The Ex-Presidents are entitled to the Secretariat staff and office expenses, the total expenditure of which shall not exceed Rs. 12,000|- per annum.

Requirement of deep drilling rigs in Madhya Pradesh

777. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in view of the third consecutive year of drought, the requirement of deep drilling rigs with a capacity to drill up to a depth of 1000 or more has increased in he water scarcity areas particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthen;

(b) what is the number of the (i) projected requirement of such rigs for Madhya Pradesh; (ii) the already available with the State Government; and (iii) demanded from the Union Government; and

(c) the plans to meet the requirement of these rigs to make drinking water available to these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Due to drought conditions, water table in several areas of the country, including some parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, has receded. In order to strike water at greater depths drilling rigs of higher capacity show a better performance. Combination type rigs are most suited for such drilling operations.

(b) and (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh has 14 Combination Drilling Rigs available with it. It has indicated an additional requirement of 12 more Combination Rigs. The Government of India assists State Govts. in implementing Rural Water Supply Programme under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). There is no provision for supplying rigs to State Govts. under ARWSP However, on account of drought conditions, the Govt. of India has released Rs. 1.05 crores for the purchase of 4 drilling rigs including 1 Combination Type Drilling Rig to Madhya Pradesh as part of ad-hoc ways and means advance for meeting the drinking water scarcity conditions in rural areas.

Use of fertiliser by farmers

778. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is crisis in the fertiliser industry in view of the large scale production of fertiliser and little in take by the agriculturists;

(b) what are the incentives given by Government to the farmers for better use of fertilisers and thereby reducing the stocks; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to save the feriliser industry?